

Neighborhood Planning Assembly, Ward 6
Greek Orthodox Church, 600 So. Willard St., Burlington, VT
November 1, 2018
Start Time: 7:00 PM
End Time: 9:10 PM

Steering Committee Members Present: Matt Grady, Mary Riley Gail Rafferty, Charles Simpson
Recorder: Charles Simpson

Due to technical problems, no Channel 17 video recording was made of the meeting.

Present: approximately 30 people, including speakers

1. Minutes from October 4, 2018 were approved.
2. Public Forum: No issues were raised.
3. Proposed Revisions to the Residential Parking Program: Chapin Spencer, DPW Director

After 25 years, this is the first set of proposed revisions. At present, 51% of property owners on a street are required to petition DPW to implement resident-only parking restrictions. DPW now recommends that if such petitions are approved, some curb space will be reserved for public parking. Also, residents seeking street parking will have to pay \$10 per year for the needed sticker. These will be available to single units up to 4, and for duplex and larger buildings up to 3 per dwelling unit. Documentation has been changed somewhat. Transferable parking permits will be allowed, taking the place of the present guest pass system. Each parking permit holder will be allowed one pass per year allowing them to void a parking ticket. Contractor permits will be available as well as for car share vehicles. Questions (Q): What's the purpose of RPP? Answer (A): It exists to respond to resident demands. Other cities charge for such permits. The current RPP enforcement program generates \$300,000 per year and costs \$120,000. Income from selling permits as proposed will generate \$30,000. Q. Once this was a 2 year sticker, why 1 year lately? A: We are exploring a return to a 2 year system. Q. How can the resale of permits be prevented? A: Our attorneys are looking at this to prevent abuses. Q: RPP is a problem because trades people are ticketed during the day when enforcement takes place but at night when there are violations, there's no enforcement. A: We have addressed the trade's people issue. Q. Will there be bumper stickers? A. Yes, up to 2 per household. One can be transferable. Q. So 51% of residents can start the process? A. Yes, but then DPW reviews it. Q. Were residents consulted about these changes? A. Yes, at NPAs and DPW meetings. Q. Don't underestimate the creativity of the public (in subverting the system).

4. State Candidate Forum:

Jill Krowinski for Representative: I'm running in the 6/3 district which includes a bit of Ward 6. My mission is to have a Vermont economy that works for everyone; paid family leave; a \$15 minimum wage; affordable childcare; clean water; good healthcare; and

housing. Q. How will you pay for family leave? A. A payroll tax. Q. The time line for a \$15 minimum wage is inadequate. A. We will work on that. Q. Link childcare with the need to bring in more residents as the state markets the latter. A. We agree. Q. As the state with nearly the oldest population, we need more money for grants to senior programs. A. We have a Choices for Care program that addresses senior issues as well as the paid leave legislation. Q. 12 weeks for either parent after a birth? A. Yes.

Barbara Rachelson for Representative: I'm running for re-election in 6/6. I'm a social worker with a career in policy and planning, an employer, and a mother. I'm proud of supporting a law that allows minors to file for relief from abuse orders without parental consent. I worked to get revenge pornography made a crime. I want to make Vermont affordable. I support civil liberties. One program I would like to see is for all of Vermont to have a single school district to make education more effective and efficient. Q. How more affordable? A. We spend more on corrections than on education in this state. We can save money on each. I want to see Social Security payments made nontaxable. Q. Can we affect Vermont demographics? A. Job opportunity is critical here. We need college loan forgiveness programs and perhaps free higher ed. tuition, as is the case in Michigan. Q. Kids want to leave and see the world. Shouldn't we focus on bringing in mid-career people? A. Yes. People love our state's lifestyle but jobs and housing will help.

Curt McCormack for Representative: I'm running for re-election in 6/3. In the past I represented Rutland in the House. The low incomes in this state and the environment are my issues. Our lifestyle is bad for the environment as it is car-centered. Q. How would you clean up the lake? A. In the past we channeled funds for sewer work. I support the present bond issue on this. But we need additional funding. The federal share of such costs has shrunk. We need a grant program for sewer work. Ag and suburban sprawl are responsible for most of our phosphorus problem, not the city. Q. Other environmental issues? A. Solid waste. I'll introduce a bill to outlaw the use of some types of plastic objects such as straws and bags. We sell renewable energy credits to So. New England but we should also implement more renewable energy here. Please, use mass transit. Q. How about a public mass transit system like Uber? A. A good idea. Suburban sprawl is the worst American invention. We need town centers.

Tim Ashe for Senate: Last session the governor vetoed many bills we passed but we had some successes, including reducing the prison population by 45% and violent crime was reduced. We passed a bill to mandate universal drug treatment in prisons. We enhanced juvenile justice. Our program to support first-time home purchase has benefited hundreds of Vermonters. Q. Will you tax marijuana? A. I support this. We should treat it like alcohol. The money would go to public health. But you have to work with the governor you have. We need a rational system to protect public health.

Chris Pearson for Senate: I've served 8 years in the House and seek re-election to the Senate. I first introduced a \$15 minimum wage bill during the Obama administration. I'm on the climate caucus. My bill created automatic voter registration for those getting driver's licenses, unless they opt out. We now have 90% of drivers registered to vote. Q.

Is a \$15 minimum wage likely to reduce employment and wages? A. The data from Seattle says no. Vermonters will spend it and that supports the economy. We are subsidizing low wages now through housing supports. Q. Won't reaching \$15 in six years have minimum effect due to inflation? A. We may look at it again at that point. A. How to achieve affordable housing? A. The state passed a \$32 m bond issue to support housing last session which, with associated funds, added up to \$100 million in the housing construction fund. We are still behind. Q. How should we respond to opiate addiction? A. We need to offer immediate treatment. We have a program to do this. We need to look at safe injection sites for people not ready to go into treatment.

Paul Dame for Senate: I worked on a dairy farm and am now a financial consultant. I was in the House in the past. I supported needle exchange legislation and the treatment center in St. Albans. I supported dental therapy based on technicians, like physicians assistants. This was a free market solution. A. What can we do to bring us together? A. We have to be the change we want to see, to lead by example. Q. How can we attract 30 yr. olds to the state? A. I run a business. I want to see more state support for sole proprietors to hire their first employee. Q. How? A. By providing information on how to hire.

Debbie Ingram for Senate: I'm seeking re-election. I was on the planning commission and select board in Williston and now run Vermont Interfaith Action which pursues social justice. I've served on health and welfare committees. My goal is Medicare for all. We did get a bill passed for universal primary health care. We need a \$15 min. wage, paid family leave, and to welcome immigrants. They should be celebrated. Q. Where is our system racist now? A. I worked to create a committee on systemic racism. It created the racism mitigation board to help employers through training. Q. What's the hold up with universal health care? A. People think it adds taxes but it would shift the tax burden. We spend billions already. Univ. care would save money and have better results as it does in other countries. Q. You support mandatory universal background checks? A. Only for those seeking to purchase guns.

Ginny Lyons for Senate: I'm seeking re-election. I was on the Williston select board and taught at Trinity College. With interns, I worked on a policy to support solar electric systems tied to affordable housing. On the health and welfare committee, I worked on support for patients being discharged into home care, which functions well. Better care means fewer ER visits. Q. Electric buses for Burlington? A. The state has \$19 million from the VW settlement and some will go for buses, most likely school buses. I don't know what Burlington plans. Q. Can we get electric charges along the interstate? A. They don't exist. We need a multi-state solution. We also have to find money to pay for roads other than just at the gas pump. Q. The cost of nursing homes is high. A. Our state goal is to increase the percentage of people staying at home through identifying needed services. A care coordinator is vital. Reimbursement rates to nursing homes are now too low.

Philip Baruth for Senate: I'm most proud of my support for gun purchase controls. After Sandy Hook, the federal government did nothing. I moved a state bill to outlaw assault

weapons, which failed initially. After Parkland, we finally got it through and supported by the governor. It also took a march on the State House. We got universal background checks and a ban on bump stocks and high capacity magazines. We did a lot. Q. What's our common economic problem? A. We are polarized on the issue of affordability and incomes. But we can get together. I'm on the economic development committee. Q. What about marijuana control? A. We legalized it for medical purposes, then clinics were created. Now recreational marijuana is legal and we have yet to create a sales system. We need to keep it secure from seed to sale. We can do so, raise money, and split that between education and treatment, in my view. Q. How have surrounding jurisdictions affected Vt. on marijuana? A. Laws on decriminalization and legalization will vary, as they do for liquor sales. Canada did so nationally, which is a better approach but here the federal government won't.

Seth Cournoyer for Senate: Affordability and the cost of development are my issues. I'm a Libertarian. Regulation raises the cost of development as does zoning. UVM wants to maximize the student numbers but Burlington doesn't create sufficient housing so costs are high. I want school choice, as in Georgia, Vt. Funding for education would go with the student and the student would choose the school. I wouldn't force school mergers, the market would. Q. Higher education cost help? A. This is a national problem. We need more trade schools in addition to our liberal arts colleges. Q. Your position on drugs? A. I'm a Libertarian and support legalization of marijuana and a look at heroin. No one should use heroin but putting users in prison doesn't help them. Q. As a young person, what's your issue? A. Affordable housing, available jobs. Youth may leave upon graduation but they can come back.

Michael Sirotkin for Senate: I've been in the Senate for five years. I'm a lawyer who worked in the past with Legal Aid and as a lobbyist representing nonprofits such as the Sierra Club and Planned Parenthood. I led the fight for a \$15 min. wage. Q. What about net neutrality? A. We passed it and got sued on the basis of federal preemption. It's now in the courts. Q. Is it good for Chittenden Co. to have F-35s based here? A. It doesn't add up to have them in a densely populated area. I was at a meeting when F-16s flew over and we were interrupted for 6 minutes.

Joshua Knox for Senate: I'm a MMU Latin teacher. I'm most proud of the fact that my class, when raising money for a bean bag chair and finding one donated, then shifted the purpose to the support of displaced Syrian refugees and raised \$250, matched by my church. We need proportional representation, not a winner takes all system as we now have it. This can be by party or by candidates but you can have the minority represented in proportion to the votes they receive. Q. Is rank choice voting good? A. I come and go on that. But it is better than first past the post and the spoiler effect is minimized. Q. What about late polling affecting the vote? A. We need to hold poll results from late polls until all voting is over. Q. What about the Electoral College? A. There's a national voting compact among several states which pledge their Electoral College votes to the winner of the popular vote. This could also be done proportionally, not in a winner takes all manner.

5. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm
Respectfully submitted, Charles Simpson